

We claim

1. A method for producing moldings from finely divided materials  
5 and for sheetlike structures of fiber materials, wherein the finely divided material is mixed or impregnated with a heat-curable composition and the resultant mixture is shaped at temperatures above 120°C or an unconsolidated sheetlike structure of fiber materials is first treated with a  
10 heat-curable composition and then heated at temperatures above 120°C, wherein the heat-curable composition comprises:

- at least one reaction product of

- 15 i. at least one polycarboxylic acid of the formula I:



in which

R is hydrogen or a  $\text{CH}_2\text{COOH}$  group,

25 X is OH or  $\text{NH}_2$  if Y is hydrogen,

Y is OH or  $\text{NH}_2$  if X is hydrogen, or

X and Y together are a  $\pi$  bond,

and/or an anhydride of the polycarboxylic acid I

- 30 ii. with ammonia and, if desired

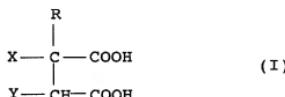
- iii. with primary amines and/or compounds containing at least two hydroxyl groups; and/or

- 35 - a mixture of at least one polycarboxylic acid of the formula I and/or its anhydride and at least one substance which releases ammonia on heating and, if desired, primary amines and/or compounds containing at least two hydroxyl groups.

2. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the reaction product of the components i and ii is selected from the monoamides and diamides, the monoammonium and diammonium salts, and the monoamide ammonium salts of maleic acid and of fumaric acid.

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3. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the reaction product is a water-soluble oligomer obtained by heating a monoamide or diamide, a monoammonium or diammonium salt or a monoamide ammonium salt of a polycarboxylic acid of the formula I.
4. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the heat-curable composition further comprises a finely divided polymer of ethylenically unsaturated monomers.
- 10 5. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the heat-curable composition further comprises at least one compound containing at least two hydroxyl groups.
- 15 6. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the binder is used in an amount of from 2% by weight to 100% by weight, based on 100% by weight of finely divided material.
- 20 7. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the heat-curable composition is used as a powder.
8. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the finely divided material is used in the form of fibers, chips, slivers or particulate materials.
- 25 9. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the composition is used in the form of an aqueous solution or dispersion.
10. A molding obtainable by a process as claimed in claim 1.
- 30 11. A sheetlike structure obtainable by a method as claimed in claim 1.
12. A heat-curable composition comprising
- 35 - at least one reaction product of
  - i. at least one polycarboxylic acid of the formula I:



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in which  
R is hydrogen or a  $\text{CH}_2\text{COOH}$  group,

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- X is OH or NH<sub>2</sub> if Y is hydrogen,
- Y is OH or NH<sub>2</sub> if X is hydrogen, or
- X and Y together are a  $\pi$  bond,

5 and/or an anhydride of the polycarboxylic acid I with

ii. ammonia and, if desired

10 iii. primary amines and/or compounds containing at least  
two hydroxyl groups; and/or

15 - a mixture of at least one polycarboxylic acid of the  
formula I and/or its anhydride and at least one substance  
which releases ammonia on heating and, if desired,  
primary amines and/or compounds containing at least two  
hydroxyl groups

20 - at least one further constituent selected from finely  
divided polymers of ethylenically unsaturated monomers,  
compounds containing at least two hydroxyl groups, and  
polymeric polycarboxylic acids.

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